

## **Welcome...**

*...to all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Worship consists of a dialogue between God and His people. God speaks and we respond by grace. The pastor and a ruling elder lead us. **\*Please stand, if able.***

### **Order of Morning Worship**

December 20, 2020

Prelude      *We prepare silently to meet God in worship.*

**\*Call to Worship**      Psalm 116:1-2

**\*Song of Approach 195**      "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

### **\*Invocation and Profession of Faith**

And without controversy  
Great is the mystery of godliness:  
God was manifested in the flesh,  
Justified in the Spirit,  
Seen by angels,  
Preached among the Gentiles,  
Believed on in the world,  
Received up in glory.  
(1 Timothy 3:16)

**\*Hymn 208**      "O Come, O Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light;  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created;

*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God in the highest;

*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

### **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 8:16-9:7

### **Congregational Prayer**

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give You thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the wonder of the incarnation Your eternal Word brought to the eyes of faith a new and radiant vision of Your glory.

In Him we see our God made visible, and so are caught up in love of the God we cannot see. O Lord our God, we ask You to make us humble and loving like Jesus, who did not

come to be served but to serve, giving His life as a ransom for many, to free us from our sins. May we live in grateful obedience to our Lord, following His holy commands, and devoting ourselves to the care of those in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

### **\*Hymn 216**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
Noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.  
Christ the babe was born for you.

### **New Testament Reading**

Luke 2:1-20

### **Message**

“THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS FOR AN AHAZ  
GENERATION”

### **\*Hymn 203**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain:*

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Refrain*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.

*Refrain*

**\*God Blesses His People**

2 Corinthians 13:14

**\*Hymn 734**

"Gloria Patri"

**"THE HOPE OF CHRISTMAS FOR AN AHAZ GENERATION"**

Isaiah 8:16-9:7; Luke 2:1-20

"There is one song all can sing tonight; 'Silent Night, Holy Night.'"

**I. GOD GIVES A GRACIOUS SIGN TO WICKED AHAZ**

Chapters 7, 9, 11, 42, 49, and 53

**A. Wicked Ahaz is in Trouble**

7:12; 30:18

**B. God Gives the Promise of a Gracious Sign**

7:14-16; 17; 23-25; 8:21-22; 2 Kings 16; Heb 11:1-2

**C. God Has a Gracious Promise for Us**

Rev 12:5; 1:17-18

**II. THE DARKNESS OF AHAZ'S DAY WILL GIVE WAY TO LUMINOUS LIGHT**

**A. The Darkest Night Yields to the Brightest Dawn**

2 Kings 15:29; Matt 4:14-16

**B. It is the Day of Gideon Again!**

Judges 6-8

**C. The Warrior is a Child**

Dan 7:13-14

*Conclusion*  
Isa 19:24-25